



4th Grade Ranger Programs Available for Field Trips:

To make a reservation, or if you have any questions, please call our Education Rangers (970) 858-3617 ext 367.

Option 1

Monumental Hike in Lower Monument Canyon (5 miles, 4 ½ hrs.)

Teachers may choose one of the themes for this hike depending on educational goals.

Discovering Fossils (*Change Over Time/Fossils*)

Monument Canyon, 5 miles (round trip), 4 ½ hrs.

Students will explore the different rock layers in Lower Monument Canyon and learn about past environments of the area on their way to Independence Monument. During the hike students will use fossil evidence from the rock layers to discover how the area has changed.

Science 2.2 – Comparing fossils to each other or to living organisms reveals features of prehistoric environments and provides information about organisms today.

Home Sweet Habitat (*Living Things and Their Habitats*)

Monument Canyon Trail, 5 miles (round trip), 4 ½ hrs.

Students will discover what different plants and animals need to survive on their way to Independence Monument. During the hike students will observe the differences and similarities of organisms.

Science 2.1 – All living things share similar characteristics, but they also have differences that can be described and classified.

Science 2.3 – There is interaction and interdependence between and among living and nonliving components of ecosystems.

Making the Connection (*Change Over Time/Fossils & Living Things and Their Habitats*)

Monument Canyon Trail, 5 miles (round trip), 4 ½ hrs.

Students will explore the connections between geology and ecology. They will discover how past environments created the different rock layers that provide habitat for a variety of desert plants and animals today.

Science 2.2 – Comparing fossils to each other or to living organisms reveals features of prehistoric environments and provides information about organisms today.

Science 2.1 – All living things share similar characteristics, but they also have differences that can be described and classified.

Science 2.3 – There is interaction and interdependence between and among living and nonliving components of ecosystems.

Option 2

Short Hikes with Activities (2 miles, 3 hrs.) Choose 2

Teachers may choose 2 of the topics below. (Students will participate in 2 different ranger-guided hikes with activities.)

Digging into Fossils (*Change Over Time/Fossils*)

Canyon Rim Trail, 1.5 hour, 1 mile (round trip)

Students will try their hand at unearthing “fossils” and during a ranger-guided walk students will look at fossil evidence from the rock layers to investigate past environments of the Monument.

Science 2.2 – Comparing fossils to each other or to living organisms reveals features of prehistoric environments and provides information about organisms.

From Utes to Cowboy Boots (*The First Coloradoans/Colorado People*)

Alcove Nature Trail or Canyon Rim Trail, 1.5 hour, 1 mile (round trip)

The chronological history of the Grand Valley will unfold as students explore the lifestyles of early residents such as Ute Indians, John Otto, ranchers, and more during this ranger-led walk.

Social Studies H.1 – Organize and sequence events to understand the concepts of chronology and cause and effect in the history of Colorado.

An Alcove for an Abode (*Living Things and Their Habitats*)

Alcove Nature Trail, 1.5 hour, 1 mile (round trip)

During a ranger-guided walk students will explore the shrub and woodland life zone and investigate the similarities, differences, and interactions of organisms living along the Alcove Nature Trail.

Science 2.1 – All living things share similar characteristics, but they also have differences that can be described and classified.

Science 2.3 – There is interaction and interdependence between and among living and nonliving components of ecosystems.